(b) To make available fertilizers to the North-East States and other hill areas which face transportation problems, the Government of India is providing additional freight support for movement of decontrolled fertilizers in these States effective from 1.4.97. Arrangements are also made for buffer stocking of DAP/MOP to meet emergent needs at different buffer stocking centres, including Guwahati, to cover North-East States.

Income Tax paid by the KRIBHCO

1682. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise Income-tax paid by KRIBHCO during the last three years;

(b) the projects under implementation and total investment involved, as on date;

(c) the status of KRIBHCO's project in Oman; and

(d) the zero date of the project and the tentative date of commissioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) The amount of income tax provided by KRIBHCO during the last three financial year is given below:

Year	Tax provided (Rs. crore)
1996-97	99.50
1997-98	145.00
1998-99	127.00

(b) to (d) KRIBHCO is one of the Indian sponsors in the Oman India Fertilizer Project which was approved by the Government in December, 1997. Primarily on account of the continuous and significant dip in urea prices in the international market, it was considered necessary to revise and restructure the project. Accordingly, the modalities connected with the revised and restructured Oman Project are being discussed and processed for obtaining the necessary approvals. The total capital cost of the Oman project as envisaged in the restructured and revised proposal is US$ 969 million, Out of this total equity contribution of KRIBHCO is envisaged as US$ 80.0 million. The project will be commissioned within 35 months from the zero date which is yet to be fixed.

Viability of Sick Fertilizer Units

1683. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "We can turn around sick fertilizer units" appearing in Financial Express dated 15th November, 1999 regarding advice of a team of experts through CSIR about the viability of sick fertilizer units;

(b) if so, the number of reports Prepared so far, alongwith the names of experts/agencies, from 1994 onwards, in chronological order, on the viability/revival of sick HFC & FCI units; and

(c) whether the available reprots are not sufficient to keep units like Durgapur, Barauni, Ramagundam and talcher running before a final decision is taken; if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Yes, Sir.